



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Australia

Grain and Feed

Grain Update - August Lockup 2003

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Report Highlights:

July rainfall across most of Australia's winter cropping areas indicate a continuing return to more normal precipitation levels. Very favorable July rains fell across portions of the chronically dry areas of Victoria and southern and central New South Wales. These rains will benefit winter crops in these areas and provide a bit more optimism about prospects for the upcoming summer crop in areas of southern New South Wales.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Canberra [AS1], AS

Weather Update

July rainfall across most of Australia's winter cropping areas indicate a continuing return to more normal precipitation levels. However, precipitation amounts over a longer period (April - July) are still running well below normal in most areas. Prospects are relatively favorable for winter grain crops in Western Australia and in parts of the eastern cropping region. Very favorable July rains fell across portions of the chronically dry areas of Victoria and southern and central New South Wales. These rains will benefit winter crops in these areas and provide a bit more optimism about prospects for the upcoming summer crop in areas of southern New South Wales. Prospects for the current winter crop will be critically dependent on rainfall leading into spring.

A continuation of favorable rainfall patterns will be required to improve the outlook of Australia's major summer crops, including cotton, rice and sorghum. The July rainfall in southern New South Wales has provided some boost to very depleted irrigation water supplies and has helped to recharge soil moisture profiles in the region. The improvement in soil moisture levels in the major catchment areas will also improve the prospects that future rainfall will runoff into storage. Practically all of Australia's rice crop is grown in this area of southern New South Wales. Prospects for the MY 2004/05 rice crop will critically depend on the amount of irrigation water leading up to the planting season. Similarly, prospects for Australia's MY 2003/04 cotton crop will depend on irrigation water supplies, which currently are well below normal. Most of Australia's cotton is grown in northern New South Wales and southern parts of Queensland.

Next ABARE Crop Report

Australia's Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) is scheduled to release revised projections of the 2003/04 winter crops (wheat, barley, oats, canola, etc.) and the 2004 summer crops (cotton, rice, sorghum, etc.) on September 9, 2003.

Recent Post Grain Reports

Grain Update - July Lockup, July 2, 2003, #AS3020
Grain Update - May Lockup, May 2, 2003, #AS3012
Grain and Feed Annual - March, 10, 2003, #AS3006